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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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January 15, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT:

MORI PER
C05079874

Information Items

Situation in Indochina: U.S. pilots flew 100 attack sorties against targets below the 20th Parallel in North Vietnam and 181 sorties in South Vietnam. VNAF pilots flew 167 sorties. There were 30 B-52 sorties in North Vietnam, none in Cambodia, and six in Laos. Enemy casualties in South Vietnam yesterday included 286 killed.

Combat activity in northern Military Region 1 was at a reduced level, with a slight increase in attacks-by-fire in the marine sector. Airborne units southwest of Quang Tri City continue to clear remaining pockets of enemy resistance along the Thach Han River. Da Nang Airbase was hit with ten 122-mm rockets; no casualties were reported, but several buildings, a truck, and a VNAF aircraft were damaged. A village west of the base was also hit, causing light ARVN and civilian casualties. ARVN elements in the Que Son Valley continue the attack toward Hiep Duc, seizing another key objective along the approaches to the district town. As a result of U.S. tactical air strikes, a 130-mm gun was destroyed and several 37-mm AA guns were destroyed or damaged near Hiep Duc.

Combat activity continued at a low level in Military Region 2, with a slight increase in attacks-by-fire, particularly in Binh Dinh Province. Enemy-initiated activity throughout Military Region 3 remained very low, while combat operations in Military Region 4 were extremely light on both sides.

There were no significant developments in the Mekong River-Route 1 area in Cambodia. Government troops continued their southward movement from Neak Long along both sides of the river without contact. Elsewhere, the Communists continued to maintain pressure on Cambodian positions north and southwest of Phnom Penh. Government attempts to relieve the garrison at Srang have encountered stiff resistance and progress

ARMY Review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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has been slow. To the east, the enemy has destroyed six bridges north and south of Svay Prey on Route 2. A government task force sweeping toward Romeas north of the capital was stopped by enemy action yesterday.

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Letter from Papadopoulos: Prime Minister Papadopoulos has written you to say that, in view of the very low level of grant military aid we are providing Greece, he has decided to forego it altogether. At the same time, he does make at some length the Greek case for substantial military assistance to meet its NATO obligations. We would, of course, continue to provide substantial assistance on credit. The grant component of our assistance has steadily declined over the years as the Greek economy -- now a \$1200 per capita GNP -- has improved.

Papadopoulos seems to have seen the handwriting on the wall and, as a matter of pride, decided to renounce grant aid before it falls to zero in our next fiscal year's budget. While the Greeks do have a case for the continuation of aid at higher levels, Greece's relatively good economic performance puts it behind other claimants with strong cases and weaker economies at a time of reduced U.S. aid appropriations.

The Greek reaction also fits in with the increasingly nationalistic posture that the Greek regime is adopting in the conduct of its foreign relations and the fact that Papadopoulos has resented continuing Congressional criticism of the Greek internal political situation, despite the fact that Greece has been very cooperative in granting important military facilities to the U.S.

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